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COUNTRY : Poland

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SUBJECT : PIR's Attitude toward the Church

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1. The Church is the most difficult of all foreign agents with which to deal. Wickedly it exploits Christian principles and tries to poison the people by a venom of hatred toward the USSR and the PPR.
2. The position of the Church should be carefully considered. The PPR will be unable to conquer and govern the Polish nation as long as the nation is exposed to Catholicism. The Church is not an ordinary party, which can be suspended or won over to collaboration. It cannot even be fought as the Underground is fought. The Church is the reservoir of hatred toward everything socialistic or Soviet. It is the agent which, under the cover of faith, stultifies men, women and children. The church pulpit is destroying our work among the peasants, workers, and even the intelligentsia.
3. The clergy is like NSZ or WIN; it breathes hatred toward the People's Poland. We can furnish many undeniable facts. We know of its secret machinations with the Underground! As long as the Church continues to act and to form various Christian agencies, the Polish Nation will not be properly indoctrinated with Communism. We have tried to arrive at some understanding with the Church in order to acquire confidence and support from the people in the present transitional period. This would also have weakened the arguments of our enemies. But this attempt has failed.
4. The action of the Church should be limited so that it will be possible to lead the Nation away from Catholicism. If the Polish Nation is to live up to the difficult tasks which lie ahead, it must be freed and purged of the effects of this religious opium.

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